(b) The daily published average international FOB prices of crude oil **as** on 29.2.2000 were as follow:—

Dubai — $25.44/bbl

Brent — $29.32/bbl

(c) The central excise duties on petroleum products are presently as under:—

	Product	Rate of Duty (Fig. in Per cent)
(i)	Motor Spirit	32
(ii)	High Speed Diesel, Light Diesel Oil, Aviation Turbine Fuel	16
(iii)	Liquified Petroleum Gas	8
(iv)	Liquified Natural Gas (LNG)	16
(v)	Superior Kerosene Oil	8
(vi)	Bitumen, Others	16
(vii)	Furnace Oil, Low Sulphur HeavyStock, Naphtha,	16
(viii)	General Furnace Oil, Low Sulphur HeavyStock and Naphtha used as feedstock for fertilizer	0

Additionally an amount of Rs. 1000/KL is levied on petrol and diesel as additional excise duty. Apart from this, State Governments levy recoverable sales tax/irrecoverable taxes at various rates prescribed by them.

Internal consumption of Gas by OIL and ONGCL

1635. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMIMAHANTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the internal consumption of gas both by OIL and ONGCL, separately; and

(b) what measures have been initiated to reduce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The internal consumption of natural gas during April 1999—Dec, 1999 by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) was 8.82 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) and 1.04 MMSCMD respectively.

The two companies utilise gas for meeting internal requirement of captive power generation, steam generation, operation of lift mechanism, production of value added products etc. Constant endeavour is made by these companies to keep the internal consumption of gas at the optimum level.

Gas supply Agreement with OIL

1636. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether signing of Gas Supply Agreement with Oil India Ltd. (OIL) has been lingering on for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any pending issues relating to the Gas Supply Agreement, which are to be cleared by Government; and

(d) if so, what are the issues and the action intiated by Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The Gas Supply Agreement between Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Reliance Assam Petrochemical Ltd. (RAPL) in respect of the Assam Gas Cracker Project has been under negotiation between the two companies since the last two years. While most of the issues were resolved, there has been disagreement between the companies on the provisions relating to liquidated damages.

(c) There is no issue relating to the Gas Supply Agreement pending with the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Reasons for Enhancing the Price of Natural Gas

1637. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the reasons due to which Government enhanced the price of Natural Gas from the existing